AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This invention is related to commonly-assigned patent applications: "Unified Channel Access for Supporting Quality of Service (QoS) in a Local Area Network", filed September 28, 2001, serial number 09/967164 ~~_____, attorney docket number TI-32159~~, and "Adaptive Algorithms for Optimal Control of Contention Access", filed September 28, 2001, serial number 09/966,635 ~~_____~~, ~~attorney docket number TI-32377~~. These applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the HC is permitted to maintain a CFB up to a maximum prespecified amount of time. If the HC has more data to transmit, or finds some other station ~~stations~~ in the BSS that has more data to transmit by contention-free transfer, than the maximum prespecified amount of time allows for, then the HC must give up the shared communications channel and attempt to reacquire the channel at a later time to start another CFB. If the HC does not need to continue the CFB up to the maximum prespecified amount of time, then the HC will give up the shared communications channel after it finishes transmitting or the last polled station finishes transmitting and receiving acknowledgment if such an acknowledgment is required.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Even though the HC did not successfully receive the response frame 610 from the wireless station, the possibility of ~~that~~ the wireless station actually receiving the frame 605 and acting upon the TXOP granted in frame 605 by a response may occur, since the HC did detect the channel to be busy. The transmission of the response frame 610 may simply have been corrupted. Several possible scenarios exist that may have prevented the HC from successfully receiving the response frame 610 but detecting the presence of a transmission.